



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS
EXECUTIVE

LINDA V. PARKER
DIRECTOR

For Release 12/06/2005:

Contacts:

Trevor Coleman, Director of Communications
Detroit: 313-456-3790 Lansing: 517-373-8787

Harold Core, Public Information Officer
Lansing: 517-241-3986

A Few Quotes On Hate Crimes from ALPACT Members

"The prosecution of hate crimes and the enforcement of federal civil rights laws is one of the highest priorities of the United States Attorney's Office. Anyone who commits these pernicious crimes will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

- United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy

"It is the hope of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights that this press conference draws a larger community presence into the issue of hate crimes," said Linda V. Parker, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. "We strongly believe that hate crimes make victims out of whole communities, and therefore whole communities must gather to speak out in defense of diversity and tolerance. Our communities and indeed our entire state cannot allow the voices of a few bigots to set the image of who we are."

Linda V. Parker, Esq., Director
Michigan Civil Rights Department (MDCR)

Hate crimes in Michigan have increased with the proliferation and the boldness of the hate groups in the state. The Anti-Defamation League has seen groups such as The National Socialist Movement (NSM) the National Alliance, the Posse Comitatus, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), and the Michigan Militia, find a voice that had been silent and below the radar for a long time. With a poor economy these groups are finding a way to recruit young disenfranchised troubled kids into their ranks. These hate groups are often pro-white and anti Jew, Black, Hispanic, and very anti-government. They are welcoming kids into these groups and giving them a "family" that they are not finding elsewhere."

Betsy S. Kellman- Regional Director
Anti-Defamation League

“This group, ALPACT, started through an anti-profiling initiative; we have worked tirelessly on the issues of “Driving While Black” and many post 9/11 issues. What is absolutely clear is that profiling issues have a direct connection with Hate Crimes. If civil liberties are abridged by profiling, then citizens lose respect for those from different cultural backgrounds. Profiling creates a spawning ground and can lead to hate incidents against people of color, women, and those with different religious and sexual orientations.”

Dan Krichbaum, President & CEO
National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)

"As Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for the state of Michigan, every day I welcome new immigrants and new citizens to the United States. The ethnic diversity of immigrants enriches the fabric of our society, forms the ideal of the American dream and helps shape our great nation. To continue valuing the long held tradition of welcoming immigrants to the United States, we must condemn intimidation and violence against those of different races, cultures or beliefs. We are a nation of diversity, a nation of tolerance and a nation of immigrants."

Carol Jenifer, District Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS- Michigan)